

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
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Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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## Two Camden Drug Wholesalers, Two Leaders of Open-air Drug Market and Two Co-conspirators Arraigned on Superseding Indictment

***– One Defendant Charged in Connection with  
The Murder of a Co-Conspirator –***

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(More)

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CAMDEN – Two Camden cocaine wholesale suppliers and two leaders of a street corner drug set, along with two co-conspirators, one of whom operated a stash house and the other a street level drug dealer, were arraigned on a federal Superseding Indictment today for being part of a drug conspiracy that peddled powder and crack cocaine and protected its operations by threats and violence, including murder, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

A 27-count Superseding Indictment, returned on Oct. 25, states that Moises Hernandez, 25, of Camden, protected drug operations through the use of violence, which included the July 8, 2006, murder of Cesar Severino, 45, of Camden. Severino allegedly supplied crack cocaine to a drug set controlled by Hernandez and co-defendant Tarrell Alford, 24, of Pennsauken.

The two cocaine wholesalers, Peralta Pimentel, 51, of Jersey City, a.k.a. “Bolivia,” and Francisco Martinez, 35, of Philadelphia, a.k.a. “Frank,” are alleged to have been responsible for supplying multi-kilo shipments of both powder and crack cocaine to Severino for distribution to drug set managers in Camden neighborhoods, according to Criminal Complaints.

According to the Indictment, Erasmo Roman, 62, of Camden, a.k.a. “Erasmo Pagan” and “Junior,” maintained a facility located in Camden that was used in the drug conspiracy to process and distribute crack cocaine. Roman also supplied crack cocaine to his son, Jose Roman, 18, of Camden, a street-level drug dealer.

The six defendants were arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio.

The defendants are each charged in Count One of the Superseding Indictment with conspiring with others, including Cesar Severino, to distribute and possess with the intent distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Additionally, Hernandez is charged with one count each of: distribution and possession with the intent distribute a quantity of cocaine; brandishing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; use of a firearm, in relation to drug trafficking crime, to commit the murder of Cesar Severino by shooting him maliciously and with premeditation; and, possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon. Hernandez is also charged with five counts of use of a communications device in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

In addition to Count One, Pimentel is charged with nine counts of using a communications device in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Martinez is also charged with three counts of using a communications device in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Both Erasmo and Jose Roman, in addition to Count one, are charged with one count of distribution and possession with intent distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Erasmo Roman is also charged with one count of maintaining a place for the purpose of

manufacturing, distribution and use of crack cocaine and three counts of using a communications device in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Hernandez was charged in a Criminal Complaint on July 13 and arrested on July 14. Pimentel, Martinez, Alford and both of the Romans were charged in Complaints on July 26. Pimentel and both of the Romans were arrested on July 28, Martinez was arrested on Aug. 6 and Alford was arrested on Sept. 8.

The long-term investigation was an effort of the DEA, ICE, N.J. State Police, Camden County Prosecutor's Office and Sheriff's Department, Camden H.I.D.T.A. Task Force, as well as the Police Departments of Camden City, Cherry Hill, Pennsauken and Maple Shade.

The Superseding Indictment can also be found on the office web site at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj).

Count One of the Superseding Indictment carries a maximum penalty of 10 years to life in prison and a fine of \$4 million. Count Two, which charges distribution and possession with intent distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a fine of \$4 million. Count Three, charging distribution and possession with the intent distribute a quantity of cocaine, carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million. Count Four charges brandishing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Count Five, which charges use of a firearm, in relation to drug trafficking crime, to commit the murder of Cesar Severino by shooting him maliciously and with premeditation, carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and is death penalty eligible. Count Six, which charges possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Count Seven, charging maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing, distribution and use of crack cocaine, carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$500,000. Count Eight through 27, which charge use of a communications device in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine and 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, each carry a maximum penalty of 7 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Despite Indictment, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Christie credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer in Newark; ICE, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins in Newark, Investigators with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Acting Prosecutor James P. Lynch; the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent; the Camden Police Department, under the direction of Arturo Venegas, Supersession Executive; the Cherry Hill Police Department, under the direction of Chief Charlie Jones, the Pennsauken Police Department,

under the direction of Chief John J. Coffey, the Maple Shade Police Department, under the direction of Chief Edmund C. Vernier, the Camden County Sheriff's Department, under the direction of Acting Sheriff William Fontanez; and the member agencies of the H.I.D.T.A. task force .

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorneys:

Pimentel - Troy A. Archie, Esq. Camden

Martinez - Dennis Wixted, Esq. Camden

Erasmo Roman - Michael E. Riley, Esq. Mt. Holly

Jose Roman - Fredrick W. Klepp, Esq. Cherry Hill

Hernandez - Maggie Moy, Esq. Asst. Federal Public Defender

& - David Ruhnke, Esq. Montclair

Alford - Edward Borden, Esq. Haddon Twp.